

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESUMES

REFS: A. SEOUL 7481; B. SEOUL 7621

1. GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADERS REACHED COMPROMISE AGREEMENT ON WIDE RANGE OF NDP DEMANDS EVENING OF NOV 20. ON FOLLOWING DAY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESUMED COMMITTEE LEVEL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS SUSPENDED SINCE NOV 7, WHEN NDP INTRODUCED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MASS RESIGNATION OF CABINET (REF A).

2. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND NDP, WHICH CONTINUED BEHIND SCENES DESPITE BREAKDOWN INTERPARTY LEADERS' MEETINGS NOV 14 (REF B), CONCLUDED NOV 20 WITH FOUR-POINT AGREEMENT. POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. NDP MOTION FOR CABINET RESIGNATION WAS ACCEPTED AS LEGAL BILL BUT BILL IS TO REMAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION IN LEGISLATIVE-JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

B. INTERPARTY AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL CONSIDER 17 NDP LAW BILLS AND DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT REFORM CONCURRENTLY WITH BUDGET MEETINGS.

C. COMMITTEE BUDGET SESSIONS WILL RESUME NOV 21

D. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL PASS 1974 BUDGET BY DEC 1, 1973, WHEN ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO ADJOURN.

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3. MEMBER OF NDP EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES COMMITTEE TOLD EMBOFF THAT COMMITTEE HAD BEEN EVENLY SPLIT WITH HARD-LINE GROUP IN FAVOR OF REJECTING GOVERNMENT OFFER, BUT THAT PARTY PRESIDENT YU CHIN'SAN AND ASSEMBLY FLOOR LEADER YI MIN-B WEIGHED IN FORCED ACCEPTANCE OF GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: THE COMPROMISE AS AGREED UPON APPEARS TO CONTAIN FEW CONCRETE CONCESSIONS ON PART OF GOVERNMENT. THE CABINET RESIGNATIONS BILL HAS IN EFFECT BEEN SHELVED FOR THE PRESENT ALTHOUGH GOVT SOURCES HAVE REPORTEDLY INTIMATED TO SOME NDP LEADERS THAT THERE MIGHT BE EVENTUAL CABINET CHANGES, INVOLVING POSSIBLY FONMIN JUSTICE MINISTER AND OTHERS. (WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS ALTHOUGH FONMIN KIM IS PARTICULARLY DISLIKED BY ASSEMBLYMEN AND THERE IS A VIEW THAT SOME CABINET MINISTER SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY IN KIM CASE. PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARY GENERAL HAS TOLD US HE EXPECTS NO CABINET CHANGES BEFORE ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MED-DECEMBER. ALSO SAID QUESTION OF CABINET RUSHUFFLE WOULD BE "AN OPEN QUESTION" AFTER THAT TIME.)

5. FURTHER GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLYMEN HAVE NOT GIVEN CONCRETE ASSURANCES REGARDING FINAL FORM OF JOINT REFORM STATEMENT OR PASSAGE OF NDP PROPOSED LAW BILLS. BOTH OF THESE MATTERS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

6. IN SUM IT APPEARS YU CHIN SAN HAS OBTAINED SOME COSMETIC CONCESSIONS. HOWEVER, GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT, DESPITE HIS EARLIER HARD LINE, AND THE CONTINUING PROTESTS OF SOME IN THE PARTY, YU HAS AGAIN DELIBERATELY AVOIDED CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT.

HABIB

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